

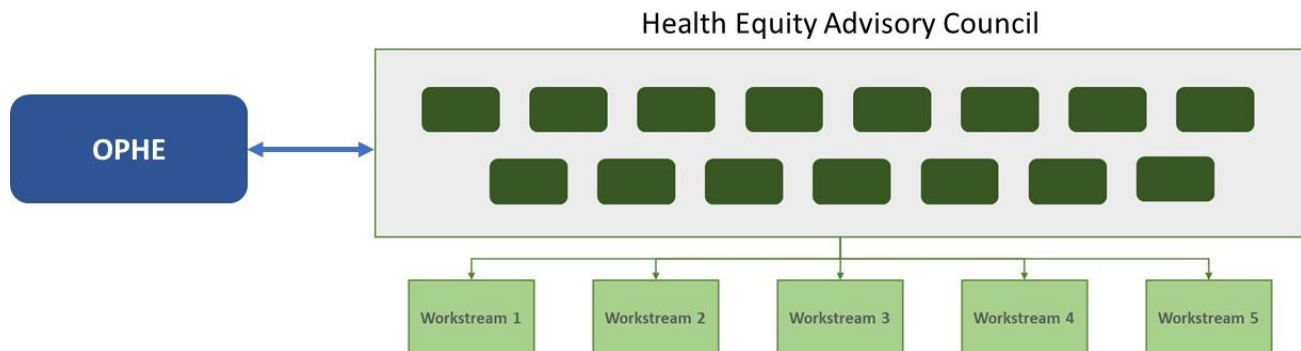
Maine CDC Office of Population Health Equity Health Equity Advisory Council

The Office of Population Health Equity (OPHE) seeks 12-15 Maine residents to serve on the pilot Health Equity Advisory Council (the “Council”). The Council will ensure that OPHE programming is responsive to community needs by contributing to OPHE’s strategic priorities and providing input into the design and implementation of initiatives to advance health equity across Maine.

The initial focus of the Council will be racial equity and the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, and gender in health outcomes. As OPHE deepens its ability to address racial inequities, it will be better equipped to transform systems and institutions impacting other communities.

Council Structure and Commitment

The Council enables lasting inclusive and participatory relationships between community members and OPHE. Council members are expected to serve an initial two-year term. The Council operates in collaboration with, but is ultimately independent from, OPHE. Information flows bi-directionally between OPHE and the Council as demonstrated below:



Council Role and Responsibilities

The Council provides connection and ensures that OPHE is responsive to community expertise and priorities. Initial responsibilities include:

- Provide input into OPHE strategy, priorities, and structure;
- Inform the way services are designed and delivered;
- Amplify critical unmet needs and propose equitable solutions;
- Outline and advocate for community-informed actions that OPHE can take;
- Provide recommendations relative to health inequities which are affecting communities;
- Examine opportunities which provide greater access to high quality medical care and improve health outcomes;
- Develop health equity leadership and capacity within communities; and
- Provide OPHE with support, thought partnership, and collaboration.

Priority Areas for Council Recruitment

OPHE is seeking community members who have any combination of the experiences/identities listed below, with an emphasis the intersections of these experiences/identities and race:

- Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)
- LGBTQ+ individuals
- People with Disabilities
- Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers

- Experience in navigating health systems, including receiving DHHS services
- Experience in grassroots efforts and/or community organizing
- Experience being unhoused or housing insecure
- Experience as a healthcare professional
- Experience in setting or implementing public policy
- Educational or lived experience in establishing and meeting public health goals

Note that you do not have to meet all these priority areas to apply or be considered for the Council.

Council Agency and Meeting Frequency

While OPHE has created an initial governance framework for the Council, the inaugural Council members will shape the Council's direction and workplan. The first Council meeting will be a retreat in which the Council will finalize the governance structure and identify the most important workstreams on which committees, and OPHE, should focus.

The Council will initially meet 10 times per year through a combination of bi-monthly virtual meetings (2 hours each) and quarterly in-person day-long retreats. In addition, the Council will establish committees which will develop their own meeting schedules and hold virtual meetings. Council materials will be distributed at least one (1) week in advance of meetings and provided in the preferred language of each council member.

Council Stipend and Other Accommodations

OPHE is particularly interested in selecting Council members who have lived experience navigating or improving the systemic gaps OPHE is tasked with addressing. To accomplish this, OPHE recognizes the need to proactively remove barriers to active participation and has established a stipend for individuals participating in the Council pilot.

Eligible members of the Council may elect to receive a participation stipend of \$50 per hour, estimated to total \$5,000 per year. The stipend will be treated as taxable income and reported on IRS Form 1099. Individuals employed by the State or whose employment is paid through State funds may participate in the Council as part of the scope of their employment (these individuals will not be eligible for a stipend due to procurement rules).

OPHE will offer Council members transportation and childcare solutions once the full needs of Council members are known.

About the [Office of Population Health Equity \(OPHE\)](#)

OPHE partners with community leaders and collaborates across state agencies to advance health equity by illuminating and addressing underlying conditions and systems that limit the full potential of all Maine people to lead healthy, safe, and opportunity-rich lives.

Next Steps

If you are interested in being considered for the Council, please complete [the online application linked here](#) by June 1, 2022. Depending on the number of complete applications, we may invite applicants to participate in an interview with the Director and members of the OPHE team.

OPHE will notify applicants of its decision by June 30, 2022.